



# Stewardship in Action!

A Volunteer Program Newsletter — Espanola & Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger Districts

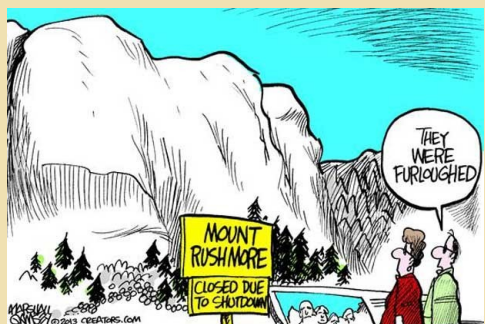
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Enjoy your mandatory vacation.



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“Anyone with gumption and a sharp mind will take the measure of two things: what's said and what's done.” “

— Seamus Heaney

## A Note From Jennifer

**Shutdown...Tuesday, October 1...**the day we were told to come to work to then go home. What would I do with my time—my unplanned time off that could last three days or three weeks. I quickly made my list of things I'd put off doing and started whittling away at them. 1) Recycle: you'd be surprised how much I let this pile up and sit in my trunk...and then have to move out of my trunk when actual luggage needs space, 2) replace the elastic in some shorts that really need to be turned into rags...I had to review the sewing machine directions first and remember to keep my fingers AWAY from the moving parts attached to the sharp needle...that was a close one!, 3) rediscover binge-watching on Netflix...yes, I did watch 49 episodes of one show (only 21 minutes per episode), 4) dust off the mountain bike and ride around on a seat I'm sure is made of concrete, and 5) enjoy the weather...at least it wasn't too windy/dusty, hot, or otherwise unpleasant. Overall, it wasn't too painful, BUT I'm so glad to be back at work and ready for what may come next.

We hope you enjoy the Fall version of *Stewardship in Action*!





# Bridging the Gap...over Tesuque Creek

Members of the Santa Fe Fat Tire Society recently volunteered their time and talents to construct two new foot/bicycle bridges over Tesuque Creek (Winsor Trail). Look for more of these beautifully constructed bridges in the future along Tesuque Creek.

Way to go SFFTS members!



Do you know where these  
bridges are located?



## Volunteer Spotlight

Our volunteer spotlight features Joanne M. Sprenger. I asked Joanne some key questions and she graciously responded. Thank you Joanne for your inspiring work and words. **Q: I am interested in your experience as an outdoor enthusiast how, when, and why you got involved? What motivated you to write a trail guide?** /

I first got involved in volunteer trail clearing when we lived in Idaho. My husband George was in graduate school at UI and was expected to be in the lab 90 hours a week. I didn't have a job yet, so our new terrier puppy, Pepper, and I headed for the forests. The other states where we lived, Wisconsin, southern Minnesota North Dakota didn't have large tracts of public land which we are so fortunate to have in the southwestern states.

We moved to Las Vegas, NM, in 1975. I was unemployed for two years, so I bought a Forest Service map of the Santa Fe National Forest, and probably the Carson, and Pepper and I started out on some day hikes. I went on a couple of backpacks with some ladies in Santa Fe. It was on one of these trips that we camped at Pecos Baldy Lake where the friendly bighorn sheep tried to steal my leather hat. George occasionally was able to get away for a short backpack. Some of the trails were difficult to find, and some needed a lot of volunteer work.

I got involved in Search and Rescue after leading a seven day backpack along Skyline Trail from El Porvenir. Several search and rescue volunteers got involved in trail work which was good conditioning and taught them how to find the trailheads for when that 911 call would come in about someone who was lost in the mountains. Hopefully the volunteer trail work has prevented some anxious hours or even a tragedy. Having good trails also makes it easier for fire fighters to reach a wildland fire, which we've had occasion to experience recently in New Mexico.

I wrote Trail Guide to the Las Vegas Area so that others could experience the joy I feel when discovering new and beautiful places in these mountains, as well as tracks or scat to remind me that we share these trails with other animals."

## Earn Your *Volunteer Pass*!

Celebrate your volunteer accomplishments with free entrance into the National Parks and other fee-based areas on federal lands for one year!

If you have 250 hours or more of volunteer service for one or many federal agencies combined, you are eligible for a Volunteer Pass.

Check out this website for more details:

<http://store.usgs.gov/pass/volunteer.html>



# Resources: Trails to Adopt

## Near Santa Fe:

Borrego/Bear Wallow Loop  
Trail #'s 150,182, and 254.

Atalaya Trail #'s 174/170

## Near Los Alamos:

Pajarito Canyon Trail # 280

Mitchell Trail #68

## Near Pecos:

Winsor Trail #254

Winsor Ridge Trail # 271

## Near Las Vegas:

El Porvenir Trail # 247

Lone Pine Mesa Trail # 214

## Near Mora:

Middle Fork Trail #266

Want to see more trails that  
are up for adoption? Check  
out the SFNF's volunteer  
website:

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/  
santafe/workingtogether/  
volunteering](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/santafe/workingtogether/volunteering)

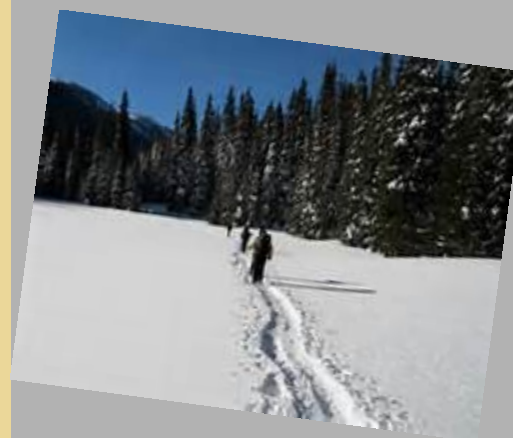


## Many Trail Uses

As fall turns into winter the weather becomes cooler and snow covers our trails. Winter recreation cross country skiing and snowshoeing are terrific ways to enjoy our public lands.

Did you know that near the Pajarito ski area there is a 10K Nordic ski course?

The Norski trail for cross country skiing, and Aspen Vista, and Pacheco Canyon trail for snowshoeing are also popular winter recreational use areas. When spring rolls around again, enjoy your trails by volunteering on trail crews or adopting a trail.



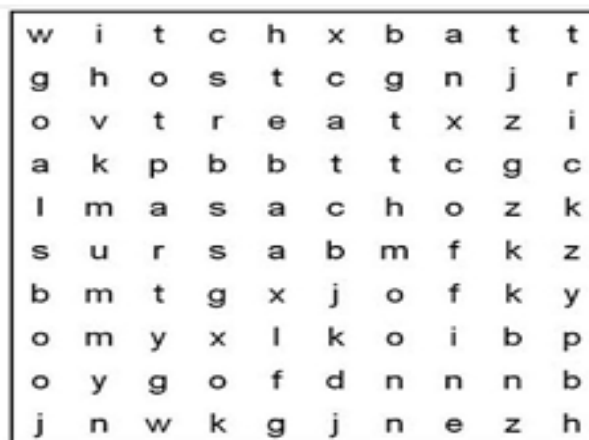
## NATURE'S CORNER

### Pumpkin History

References to pumpkins date back many centuries. The name pumpkin originated from the Greek word for "large melon" which is "pepon." "Pepon" was nasalized by the French into "pompon." The English changed "pompon" to "Pumpion." Shakespeare referred to the "pumpion" in his *Merry Wives of Windsor*. American colonists changed "pumpion" into "pumpkin".

### Healthy Halloween Treats

- Cheese and cracker packages
- Sugar-free gum
- Cheese sticks
- Juice box packages
- Small packages of nuts or raisins
- Package of instant co-coa mix
- Peanuts in the shell



Find and circle these Halloween words:

coffin treat  
ghost bat  
cat trick  
party boo  
moon mummy  
witch



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



### Tips for Growing Pumpkins

- Soil prep, most important factor, after testing and adjusting soil use large quantity of partially decomposed compost.
- Start seeds in pots early to provide for longest growing season for your zone. Move seedling to warm outside soil and temperatures 65°F or provide mini-greenhouse.
- Fertilize, first with higher phosphorus for roots, later with balanced fertilizer.
- Water, fortifying with liquid fertilizer, growing pumpkins requires gallons of water.
- After pumpkins start growing, limit vines to one or two. Be ready to adjust vine positions as pumpkins grow larger
- Make sure pumpkins get as much sun as possible.